

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS19600C1**

This legislation establishes a new custodial remedy for grandparents or other relative caregivers seeking legal custody of grandchildren or relatives. It provides a process for a court to use when deciding whether or not to grant de facto custodian status to a grandparent or other relative. Further, it specifies standards and incorporates by reference present statutes to be applied when evaluating best interests of a child when considering whether or not to award custody rights to a de facto custodian. The legislation sets out content requirements of a petition or motion to be filed with the court to commence a de facto custodianship proceeding, and it sets forth written requirements for notification to parties that may have an interest in the child. This legislation amends Title 15 Chapter 5 to align de facto custodian terms and standards with similar terms and references in proposed Title 32 Chapter 17.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There may be a fiscal impact on the general fund and judicial system depending upon the number of petitions or motions filed with a court.

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